

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 8

DATE 4-4-05

BILL NO. HB-435

Good afternoon Chairman Ryan and members of the committee.

First, I would like to thank Jessica for relaying this message to you. I am sorry I am not there in person, but we are in the process of having student government elections on the MSU-Billings campus.

The students of MSU-Billings stand in support of House Bill 435. We agree with the picture laid out in the bill that, "if Montana is to achieve success in attracting new businesses and in promoting a healthier climate for economic growth to provide quality, high-paying jobs for Montana citizens."

We feel that it is essential that Montana do everything in their power to accommodate this economic growth and one way to do that is to make sure that Montana high school students are given every opportunity to afford an education in Montana schools of higher education.

We ask you, the members of the committee, to look at the big picture: one of an economically prosperous Montana and do what you can to make this picture become a reality and one big step toward that goal is to give House Bill 435 a do pass.

Thank you,

Connie Summers

ASMSU-Billings Lobbyist